



Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission

The Nature Conservancy Recreation Management Area Public Use Special Regulations

BIENNIAL RULE

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the Montana Fish & Wildlife Commission adopts the following rules and regulations to govern recreational use of The Nature Conservancy Recreation Management Area throughout Region 2 for the purpose of gaining hunting access and recreational privileges on private land, to prevent vehicular damage to soils and vegetation, and to avoid excessive disturbance to native wildlife including threatened and endangered species.

This Rule is effective from 8/25/15 to 8/25/17.

The designated area of The Nature Conservancy Recreation Management Area is depicted in Figure 1 below:

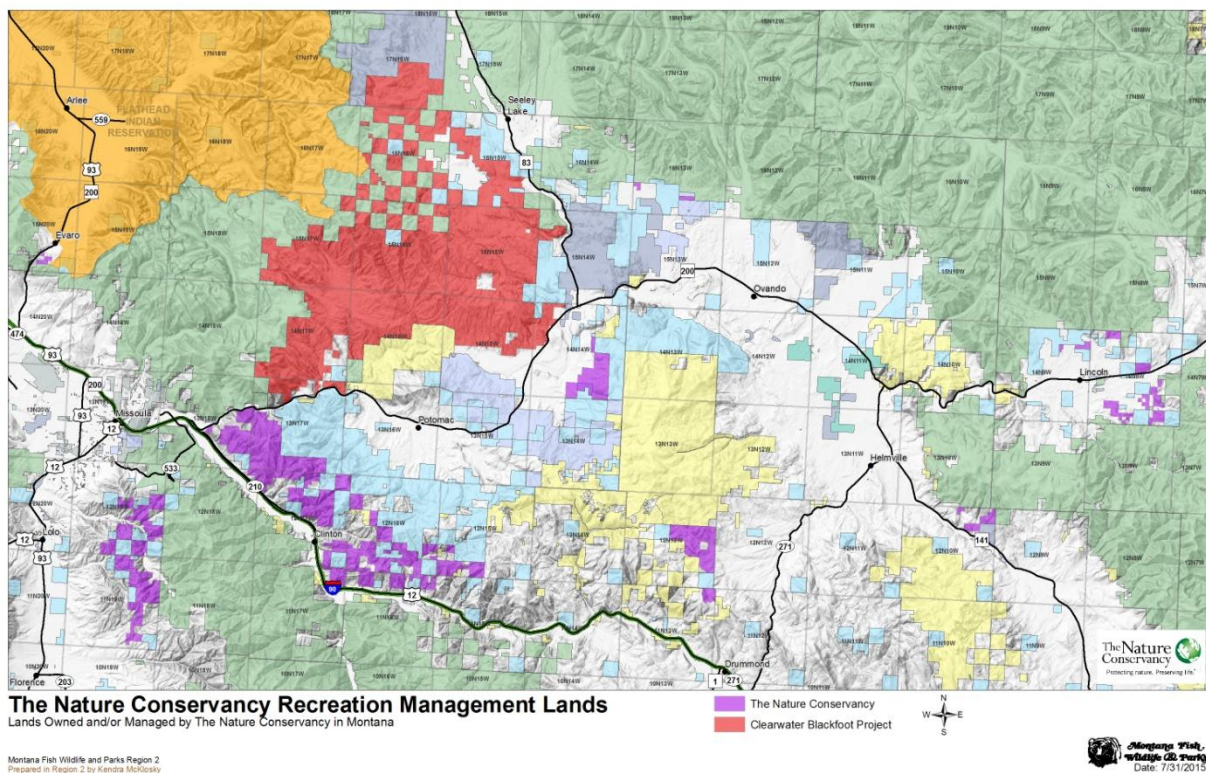


Figure 1. The Nature Conservancy Recreation Management Area Map.

Because the public enjoyment of the recreational facilities of these lands necessitates rules, regulations and enforcement, the provisions of 23-1-106 and 87-1-303 M.C.A. shall apply. It is therefore ordered that it shall be unlawful for any person to:

1. Drive any motorized wheeled-vehicle in the above-described area except on designated open roads or areas posted open to motorized use. Off-road motorized vehicle use is prohibited. Landowners and/or their designee in the course of administrative work, and federal, state, and county officials in the course of their official duties will be exempt from these vehicular restrictions.
2. Drive any motorized wheeled-vehicle behind any gate, earthen barrier, barricade, or signs. Any earthen barrier is considered a "closure" to all wheeled-motorized vehicles. Road restrictions apply behind unmarked gates, even if vandalized or open.
3. Park any vehicle in such a manner as to obstruct traffic or block any gate. Administrative, contractor or emergency traffic may need to pass through locked gates at any time.
4. Operate a snowmobile in the above-described area between April 2 and November 30. Snowmobile use is allowed seasonally from December 1 through April 1. Snowmobiles are permitted to go beyond an earthen barrier or gate; however, snowmobiles must stay on groomed or signed snowmobile routes, or forest road systems.
5. Trespass, hunt, or discharge a firearm within Nature Conservancy posted safety zones. Recreational shooting and discharge of firearms is prohibited on Nature Conservancy lands when posted. However, hunting and non-commercial trapping of game and non-game animals is allowed in accordance with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks rules and regulations.
6. Hunt, transport hunters or retrieve game behind a closed road with administrative or commercial vehicles.
7. Conduct any commercial activity without a Nature Conservancy *Land Use Permit*.
8. Conduct commercial outfitting or guiding of hunters or fisherman in the above-described area.
9. Commercially trap game and non-game species. Recreational trapping and wolf trapping, as defined by published Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks trapping regulations is allowed. Trapping is prohibited on active logging and road construction projects, if machinery is in the area; the area is closed to trapping. Trap setbacks required; 150' from all open or gated roads and hiking trails. 1,000' from all residences and trailheads.
10. Leave a campsite unattended for more than three consecutive days. However, camping on Plum Creek Timber Company lands is allowed but is limited to 16 consecutive days. Camping beyond 16 days requires relocation to new site at least five miles from the original site. A Nature Conservancy *Land Use Permit* is required for any exceptions or special use camping.
11. Leave a campfire unattended. Campfires must be attended at all times. Cutting of firewood for personal use while camping on Nature Conservancy lands is allowed, a Nature Conservancy *Land Use Permit* is not required.
12. To minimize conflicts with bears; human, pet, and livestock food, garbage and all other attractants shall be acceptably stored at all times in accordance with the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Wildlife Management Food/Attractant Order.
13. The use of certified weed-seed-free livestock hay, forage and bedding is required for all livestock use on Nature Conservancy lands.
14. Cut standing trees or remove firewood without a Nature Conservancy *Lands Use Permit*. Permitted personal-use firewood gathering of dead or down wood is allowed from June 1 – December 31. Personal firewood gathering must not exceed five cords per permit.
15. Use any exploding targets, fireworks or explosives on Nature Conservancy lands.
16. Leave any garbage or litter. All trash must be packed out and the area left clean.

STATEMENT OF LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR THE RULE

Section 23-1-106, MCA and section 87-1-303, MCA gives the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission authority to adopt and enforce rules governing uses of lands that it operates under agreement with or in conjunction with a private owner.

This rule was adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission on _____, 2015.

Dan Vermillion, Chairman
Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission